

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Health	(2) MEETING DATE 9/24/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Penny Borenstein / 781-5519	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve 1) a renewal agreement (Clerk's File) with the California Department of Public Health for FY 2013-14 in the amount of \$773,451 for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program; 2) a related budget adjustment in the amount of \$30,000 from unanticipated revenue for Fund Center 160 - Public Health; and 3) authorize the Health Agency Director or designee to sign any amendments to the recommended agreement that do not increase the level of General Fund support.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Approve and direct the Chairperson to sign a renewal agreement with the California Department of Public Health in the amount of \$773,451 to fund Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) activities, pandemic flu planning and the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) activities and to sign the accompanying certifications that the funds shall not be used to supplant other funding for the program, or for lobbying;</li> <li>2) Approve a budget adjustment in the amount of \$30,000 from unanticipated revenue to Fund Center 160 – Public Health to fund temporary help staff to perform plan-writing, training and drill activities (\$12,000); IT/Communications Contractor support to assist with redundant communications systems (\$10,000); travel and training expenses (\$7,000); and other miscellaneous program expenditures (\$1,000) (4/5 vote is required); and</li> <li>3) Authorize the Health Agency Director or designee to sign any amendments to the recommended agreement with the California Department of Public Health related to the Emergency Preparedness Program that does not increase the level of General Fund Support.</li> </ol>			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Federal	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$870,844.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$870,844.00	(9) BUDGETED? \$840,844 – budgeted \$30,000 – not budgeted
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ____ ) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ____ )			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: 1314030 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: <u>10-23-2012</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW  Reviewed by Leslie Brown			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director  
Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH, Health Officer

DATE: 9/24/2013

SUBJECT: Request to approve 1) a renewal agreement (Clerk's File) with the California Department of Public Health for FY 2013-14 in the amount of \$773,451 for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program; 2) a related budget adjustment in the amount of \$30,000 from unanticipated revenue for Fund Center 160 - Public Health; and 3) authorize the Health Agency Director or designee to sign any amendments to the recommended agreement that do not increase the level of General Fund support.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board:

- 1) Approve and direct the Chairperson to sign a renewal agreement with the California Department of Public Health in the amount of \$773,451 to fund Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) activities, pandemic flu planning and the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) activities and to sign the accompanying certifications that the funds shall not be used to supplant other funding for the program, or for lobbying;
- 2) Approve a budget adjustment in the amount of \$30,000 from unanticipated revenue to Fund Center 160 – Public Health to fund temporary help staff to perform plan-writing, training and drill activities (\$12,000); IT/Communications Contractor support to assist with redundant communications systems (\$10,000); travel and training expenses (\$7,000); and other miscellaneous program expenditures (\$1,000) (4/5 vote is required); and
- 3) Authorize the Health Agency Director or designee to sign any amendments to the recommended agreement with the California Department of Public Health related to the Emergency Preparedness Program that does not increase the level of General Fund Support.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Health Agency's Public Health Department is requesting approval of a renewal agreement with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to offset communications planning, equipment and supplies, and drills with Health Agency staff to improve the Department's response to public health emergencies. The Agreement includes four funding streams as described below.

Since 2001, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided funding to States to prepare for bioterrorism, pandemics, and public health emergencies and to assist hospitals and supporting health care systems in delivering coordinated care to victims of such emergencies. In 2002, the County began receiving such funding for public health emergency preparedness. The County has continued to receive funds for these purposes since that time.

The grant renewal agreement was received in the end of August. However, the State did not approve the detailed budget for this program until mid-September. The renewal agreement continues to support the following funding streams which each must be spent or encumbered by June 30, 2014:

- CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (CDC PHEP)
- CDC Public Health Laboratory Funds (CDC PHL)
- Hospital Preparedness Program Funds (HPP)
- California Department of Public Health Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (CA Pan Flu)

#### **Public Health Emergency Preparedness (CDC PHEP)**

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (CDC PHEP) portion of the agreement supports the continuation and improvement of local public health preparedness efforts for and response to bioterrorism, outbreaks of infectious disease and other public health threats and emergencies. Planning and preparation is based on a capabilities-based planning process, with work plans designed to address items identified in recently completed vulnerability assessments.

In FY 2011-12, the CDC outlined 15 Target Capabilities for public health preparedness across the country. The California Department of Public Health targeted 10 of these capabilities for work by counties in FY 2012-13. They continue to target these capabilities in FY 2013-14 and will add additional functions and capability requirements in the coming years as proficiency is gained in these areas:

#### **Priority Level 1**

- Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigations
- Public Health Laboratory Testing
- Emergency Operations Coordination
- Emergency Public Information and Warning
- Information Sharing
- Community Preparedness
- Medical Countermeasures Dispensing
- Medical Materiel Management and Distribution

#### **Priority Level 2**

- Responder Safety and Health

#### **Priority Level 3**

- Mass Care

#### **Public Health Laboratory Funds (CDC PHL)**

The PHL portion of the agreement is for the continued development of the County Public Health Laboratory capacity to serve as a regional bioterrorism Laboratory Reference Network (LRN) resource for San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. This component supports microbiology staff and laboratory supplies. The LRN staff works with regional partners, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), to fulfill the requisite work plan to implement, maintain, update and coordinate testing policies and procedures for Class A bioterrorism agents.

#### **Hospital Preparedness Plan (HPP)**

The HPP portion of the agreement supports hospitals, clinics, local emergency medical services organizations and other healthcare providers in health care system response to an emergency event. The five year strategy driving this program focuses on the development of an effective healthcare coalition including both public and private sectors. Achieving the goals of the grant is measured by progress on "Target Capabilities" organized into priority levels by the California Department of Public Health. It should be noted that while Priority Level 2 items are included in the capabilities list, the State is not requiring this agency to address the capabilities during the current grant cycle.

**Priority Level 1**

- Healthcare System Preparedness
- Healthcare System Recovery
- Emergency Operations Coordination
- Information Sharing
- Medical Surge
- Volunteer Management

**Priority Level 2**

- Fatality Management
- Responder Safety and Health

**California Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (CA Pan Flu)**

The CA Pan Flu portion of the agreement is for continued improvement of pandemic influenza planning including maintenance of the California Disaster Healthcare Volunteer (DHV) Program, Alternate Care Site planning and preparedness for at-risk populations. Funding supports a pandemic influenza coordinator and travel to regional meetings to further coordinate these programs with Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

Acceptance and utilization of these funds will allow the Public Health Department, partner agencies and the overall emergency medical services system within the County to better prepare for and respond to public health emergencies, including biological terrorism events, pandemics and other epidemics of emerging diseases, and mass casualty events.

The additional items funded by the recommended budget adjustment help fulfill the grant goals to increase the County's ability to respond to emergencies. The funds will allow the Department to support training and exercising with communications equipment for healthcare providers and Health Agency staff and allow additional staff time to improve plans based on previous exercises and implement exercises on newly completed plans.

The Department is requesting that the Board delegate authority to the Health Agency Director, or designee, to execute future FY 2013-14 amendments with the State Department of Public Health for emergency preparedness activities, which do not increase General Fund support and are subject to the review of County Counsel, that require prompt execution in order to meet federal grant timelines.

In order to receive these funds, the State requires the signed agreement is received no later than September 30, 2013.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

The Public Health Department coordinates administration of all grants with the participation of multiple agencies. The HPP grant requires coordination with all local hospitals, community health clinics, urgent care centers, ambulance providers, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, skilled nursing facilities and other healthcare providers. The Pandemic Influenza and CDC PHEP grants involve coordination with multiple agencies through the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (PHEPAC), which includes representatives from County Fire, Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, Mental Health, American Red Cross, Cal Poly, Animal Services, Department of Public Works, local law enforcement agencies, hospitals, and Pacific Gas and Electric. Due to the broad reaching effects of a potential pandemic, other County agency involvement includes County Counsel, County Office of Education, private medical representatives and religious leaders.

County Counsel has reviewed the renewal agreement as to form and legal effect.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Public Health's FY 2013-14 adopted budget includes expense and revenue in the amount of \$840,844 for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program. The PHEP renewal agreement is in the amount of \$773,451, representing \$67,393 less than the Department's approved FY 2013-14 adopted budget. Since Public Health did not spend the entire FY 2012-13 State allocation, the State will allow these unspent funds to be used in FY 2013-14. The unspent funds available to the County are \$98K. These unspent funds will mitigate the \$67K shortfall in base allocation and provide an additional \$30K to the County over and above the adopted FY 2013-14 budget. The requested budget adjustment in the amount of \$30K provides additional funding for: (a) an IT/Communications Contractor to support redundant communications systems (\$10,000), (b) temporary help staff to perform plan-writing, training and drill activities (\$12,000), (c) travel and training for Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, PHEP and HPP staff (\$7,000) and other associated miscellaneous expenses (\$1000).

Approval of the renewal agreement will not increase the level of general fund required for the Public Health Department.

## **RESULTS**

Adoption of the renewal agreement will help ensure that the County continues to develop comprehensive plans and procedures in order to ably respond to public health emergencies of all types. The findings will continue to foster ongoing relationships and strengthen ties between the Public Health Department, the medical community, emergency responders and the general public. During FY 2013-14, the agreement will specifically fund the following:

- Training for new Health Agency employees in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and their roles as disaster service workers within the Health Agency.
- Coordination of and participation in the California Statewide Medical and Health Exercise, including a Tabletop Exercise in October and a Full Scale Exercise with healthcare partners in November 2013.
- Communications equipment including satellite phones and hand-held radios for hospitals, EMS and other healthcare partners to assist in coordination during large medical surge events and exercises.
- Completing a draft version of Alternate Care Site Plans and procedures to meet medical surge capacity in events where current bed capacity and staffing is not sufficient.
- Year-round syndromic surveillance with hospitals to identify ongoing trends in community disease patterns and potential outbreaks.
- Maintenance of public health communication and notification systems including Reddinet and CAHAN, used to notify disaster workers, hospital, fire and law enforcement officials as well as healthcare coalition partners in emergencies.
- Upgrading of the public health rapid fax/emailing system for sending out alerts and media releases to healthcare providers, media outlets and the public in emergencies.
- Finalizing drafts of Standard Operating Procedures for the County Health Agency Department Operations Center (CHADOC) and the Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC).
- Improved laboratory testing capacity for response to public health emergencies and requests from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Collectively these results will contribute to achieving the County's vision of providing a safe, healthy and livable community.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Clerk's File Statement for renewal agreement with the California Department of Public Health